cross-border terrorism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in India continues unabated. Pakistani forces have also continued firing across the LOC and International Border in Jammu and Kashmir.

Government have seen the statement attributed to the senior Pakistani diplomat. However, following the military coup, statements made by Pakistani spokesmen indicate that Pakistan's aggressive assertions of territorial claims on Jammu and Kashmir continue.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the state remains under the illegal and forcible occupation of Pakistan. India remains committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. We expect Pakistan to demonstrate its adherence to these agreements by abandoning its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism and hostile propaganda against India.

De-Escalation of Tension between India and Pakistan

924. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistani "Chief Executive" (following the coup in Pakistan) has offered de-escalation of tension between the two countries and to curb cross-border terrorism in respect of India;

(b) if so, what specific steps were proposed to the taken by Pakistan in this direction; and

(c) what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) The military coup in Pakistan has not altered Pakistan's aggressive approach, hostile policies and propaganda towards India. Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India has continued unabated. Pakistani forces have also continued firing across the Line of Control and the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan has made no moves to withdraw troops from the Line of

Control where they had been inducted in large numbers during its armed intrusion and aggression in the Kargil sector.

Statements by Pakistani spokesmen, including General Parvez Musharraf, indicate that Pakistan's assertion of territorial claims in Jammu and Kashmir continue. The State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the terriroty of the State is under Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation. We will continue to take all necessary steps to safeguard our security and territorial integrity.

India is committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. We expect Pakistan to demonstrate its adherence to these agreements by the abandoning its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism and hostile propaganda against India.

Compensation claim of Pakistan for Atlantic Aircraft

925. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR;
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan had claimed a compensation from India amounting to more than $ 60 million for shooting down the Pak Atlantic aircraft, which had intruded into Indian air-space across the Kutsch border on August 10, 1999, besides compensation for loss of pilots and others; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Pakistan had approached us through diplomatic channels seeking compensation for the shooting down of its military combat-cum-surveillance Atlantique aircraft, which had intruded into Indian air space in the Kutch sector on 10 August 1999.

The Pakistan military aircraft was on a hostile military mission and was engaged in espionage activity. It had committed a brazen violation of Indian air space as also of the 1991 Agreement between India and Pakistan on Prevention of Air Space Violations. It also